

Written Testimony in SUPPORT of- House Joint Resolution 6 concerning -United States Constitution – Amendments Convention – Limitations on Federal Power

March 1, 2022

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Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, Maryland House of Delegates – IN FAVOR OF HJ6

Madam Chair & Members of the Committee:

My name is Jennifer Brown and I am a political science instructor and Convention of States volunteer for District 35. In one year, I have watched a dramatic shift in political ideology among my students. Once supporters of centralized federalism, many have shifted their views. I listen to stories of job loss due to vaccine mandates or business shutdowns. I hear about the cost of gas, food and retail items; and the effect it has on students working and attending school simultaneously.

In 2018 this body passed legislation that funds tuition at state community colleges, but if federal policies force prices so high that students have to choose work over school, what benefit is funding that will never be used? Your work for the citizens of Maryland is erased by poor policy decisions and federal overreach. Those same students are worried about completing degrees in fields where they can no longer work. They ask what happened to their “right” to work and to make their own choices.

Students are surprisingly unified on this topic, regardless of party affiliation. What they see happening at the federal level is awakening them. They are paying attention and are anxious for their opportunity to vote. They don’t want the United States to become a nation where freedom is trampled and economic prosperity ceases.

Like my students, I want to see something done to curtail federal overreach. As a former legislative aide, here in Annapolis, I have seen the process work. Each of you are far more inclined to listen to your constituents. You have better eyes and ears in your district than any federal representative. Powers not specifically granted to the federal government are left to you or to the people. As Maryland representatives you have the jurisdiction and the obligation to exercise those powers.

That is why I want you to support Joint Resolution HJ6. The convention where you will talk about these matters with other states is vital to reigning in federal power and restoring the proper balance of federalism. A disproportionate assumption of power at the federal level hinders good policy and decision making at the state level. Ultimately your ability to represent and support your constituents depends on how you exercise your federal oversight using Article V.

It is this delicate balance that secures freedom for you, for me, and for all of your constituents. Please vote FAVORABLE on HJ6 to move it from committee to the House floor for a full debate.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Deems Brown